

**WILDERNESS INVENTORY MAINTENANCE
IN BLM OREGON/WASHINGTON**

Year: **2008**

Current Inventory Unit Number/Name: **Rim Rock Lake Unit (2-47)**

**FORM 1: DOCUMENTATION OF BLM WILDERNESS INVENTORY
FINDINGS ON RECORD:**

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness inventory information on all or part of this area?

No _____ Yes X (if more than one unit is within the area, list the names/numbers of those units.):

a) Inventory Source: Wilderness Inventory – OR/WA Final Intensive Inventory Decisions (November 1980), Page 125-126

b) Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): Surprise Lake Subunit 2-47

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): November 1980 Map

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): Burns District – Three Rivers Resource Area.

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory unit is associated with the area, list each unit and answer each question individually for each inventory unit):

Inventory Source: **Wilderness Inventory – OR/WA Final Intensive Inventory Decisions (November 1980), Page 125-126 (see attached summary from report).**

Unit#/Name	Size (historic acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
2-47	21,940	N	N	N	N

**FORM 2 - DOCUMENTATION OF CURRENT WILDERNESS
INVENTORY CONDITIONS**

Unit Number/Name: Rim Rock Lake Unit (2-47)

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Current Unit Acres: 24,962 Yes X No _____

[State the BLM acreage of the unit. Describe the boundaries of the unit (roads, property lines, etc.) If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception. If more than one inventory unit is involved, list the acreage in each and evaluate each unit/subunit separately. Complete the analysis for (1), (2), (3),(4) and (5) for each unit or sub-unit. If you check "No" above, check "N/A" (Not Applicable) in the remaining boxes below, and you need not provide additional evaluation for the unit or subunit. Use additional space as necessary.]

Description of the Current Conditions: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation features and summary of major human uses/activities). See Attachment 1 for the definition of key terms.

Citizen Information Received: At the time the ID-team met in June of 2007, the only citizen proposal information that had been received was during project scoping for a Greater Sage-Grouse habitat improvement project. In response to scoping for the project, the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) provided a map showing a portion of project area falling within ONDA's proposed Sheep Mountain WSA. BLM contacted ONDA for additional information and none was received prior to the ID-team meeting. The completion of the evaluation was delayed due to the need to add new information related to a wildfire that occurred in the unit in July. On September 19, 2007 the BLM received additional information from ONDA for their 33,422-acre Sheep Mountain proposed WSA. ONDA included in their information a narrative report, maps, photos, photo and route logs and GIS data with their route and photo point data. This information was reviewed and considered by BLM staff and is incorporated into the updated evaluation below.

Boundary Road Determination Process: In updating wilderness inventory information for this BLM unit and several resource staff familiar with the area helped identify routes which would meet the boundary road criteria. In reviewing ONDA's information, one route was further field checked as described below for the southern boundary of BLM's Rim Rock Unit.

Many of the interior routes not identified as boundary roads may have been mechanically improved or maintained at some point and may be maintained in the future as needed. Most are in a useable condition, but

currently they may not receive relatively regular use, so they were not identified as boundary roads.

Boundary changes since 1980: The boundaries for the current Rim Rock Lake Unit appears to be similar to those identified for Unit 2-47 (See Unit Boundary Map). One change is the addition of the power line in the northwest corner of the unit as a boundary, due to it being a developed right-of-way. Another boundary change is that a portion of the boundary to the south is no longer identified as a boundary road. Non-federal lands within the unit have also become BLM land. Overall the unit is slightly larger due to these changes.

Current Unit Boundaries:

Northern Boundary: Highway 20, a developed right-of-way with a utility line, and private property (ONDA Photo Pt. GJ-42 NE)

Eastern Boundary: Gap Ranch Road-Wagontire Road (BLM Photo Pt 1) (ONDA Photo Pts GJ-2 N, GS-42 NE) and private property

Southern Boundary: Hay Lake/Deep Valley Road (Segment of Road 7245) and Road 7256 and an unnumbered road segment in between these roads – See BLM Route Analysis Form #1 and Photo Pts 2, 3, 4, 5. (ONDA Photo Pts GS-12 N, GJ-20 E, GJ-21 W, GJ-22 E, GJ-23 NW, GJ-26 E)

Western Boundary: East Glass Butte and Bushwell Roads (segments of Road 7242), Anderl Place Road (Segments of Road 7245) - (ONDA Photo Pts GJ-36 E, GJ-39 N, GJ-29 N, GJ-34 S, GJ-35 SW)

Interior Boundaries: There are two small private inholding in the unit.

Note: Other ONDA photo pts did not appear to be of boundary roads for this BLM unit

The citizen proposal boundaries concurred with the BLM boundaries with the exception of the northwest corner where BLM information shows a developed power line with an existing right of way that ONDA did not include as a boundary on their unit map. However, their report did reference a power line in the northwest portion of the unit was excluded from their proposed WSA. ONDA's report narrative indicates that southern boundary is made up of routes that are unmaintained, rocky, overgrown, and little used. As a result, their unit extends south to include the Sheep Mountain Area (See Attached BLM Boundary Map and ONDA Sheep Mountain Proposed Map). BLM verified the status of boundary with a field visit on September 10, 2007 and confirmed that this route is a boundary road that has been mechanically improved or maintained at some point and while there is minimal vegetation in the roadway in places, it is currently in a useable condition. This road would be maintained in the future as needed and does receive relatively regular use some in the

late spring, but most occurs in the summer and fall. Road uses by grazing permittees include motorized access for monitoring and managing cattle, salting and checking and maintaining range improvements. Use by BLM staff includes motorized access for wildfire suppression, maintaining range improvements, monitoring cattle and rangeland/resource conditions and other resource management activities. Use by the public is primarily associated with recreational activities. As a result, BLM's Rim Lake Unit does not include the Sheep Mountain area as shown for ONDA's Sheep Mountain proposed WSA.

(2) Is the unit in a natural condition?

Yes X No N/A

1980 Unit Description: 1980 Inventory Report described this unit as located approximately 15 miles west of the community of Riley. The dominant topography throughout most of this unit consists of flat to gently rolling terrain. Areas in the north and southwest portions of the unit are made up of low ridges lined with rimrock and some small hills. The dominant vegetation throughout the unit is sagebrush, grass and rabbit brush although patches of scattered juniper occur near the ridge lines and in the hills along the western edge of the unit. Due to the cumulative impact of several water developments, fences ways and a utility line, the unit was found to be unnatural.

Current Condition Description: Landscape and other unit photos provided by ONDA that fall within BLM's Rim Rock Lake Unit include GJ-7 SW, GJ-8 WNW, GJ-9, GJ-10 NW, GJ-11 N, GJ-12 SW, GJ-13 W, GJ-14 N, GJ-18 NNW, GJ-25 N, GJ-28 W, GJ-31 E, GJ-32 E, GJ-33 S, GJ-27 SE, GJ-40 NE, GJ-41 ESE, and GJ-43. The primary human uses in the unit and the surrounding area are associated with livestock grazing and recreation by the public. Since the 1980 report was issued, a crested wheatgrass seeding was completed as part of a fire rehabilitation project in the late 1980's, most of which is located on the west side of Glass Butte Road outside of this unit and 31 acres in the southern tip of the unit near Gap Ranch-Wagontire Road. A wildfire in July of 2007 burned approximately 5,025 acres within the unit, killing some of the brush and juniper trees. Approximately 1,535 acres of the burned area in the unit were seeded as part of the emergency stabilization effort (See Unit Character Map). Brush beating was also observed along some of the boundary roads during the field route review. Current BLM data indicates the following developments are present:

Water Developments: 18 waterholes, 2 reservoirs, 1 dugout

Fencing: 27.4 miles

Cattleguards: 4

Non-boundary Routes: 25 miles

While there are developments present, they are located either along the edges of the unit or are fairly well distributed throughout the unit and the

team found that they are not substantially noticeable and the unit is natural. The citizen proposal had the same finding for the presence of naturalness for the same general area included in their Sheep Mountain proposed WSA.

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

1980 Unit Description: The 1980 Inventory Report described this unit as having flat to gently rolling topography and low vegetation throughout most of the unit that restricts the possibility of a visitor finding a secluded spot. Those areas where the topographic and vegetative screening is greater are not very large, and broad vistas are common. The unit as a whole does not offer an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

Current Condition Description: The ID-team confirmed that there is still a lack of topographic and vegetative screening. Though there has been some increase in juniper since 1980, however trees are still scattered in most areas. ONDA's report narrative indicates that there was sufficient size (33,422 acres and approximately 6 miles and 10 miles long) and topographic (including Sheep Mountain) and vegetative screening, to provide for outstanding solitude.

After reviewing the information submitted by ONDA, BLM found that Rim Rock Unit is not as large as their proposed Sheep Mountain WSA and does not include Sheep Mountain. Though other topographic and vegetative features described by ONDA do provided limited screening in the Rim Rock Lake Unit as described above, they are not sufficient enough to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Vegetative screening was further reduced on over 5,000 acres by the loss of shrubs and trees in areas burned by the 2007 fire. BLM finds that outstanding opportunities for solitude are not present.

(4) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

1980 Unit Description: The 1980 Inventory Report described this unit as offering opportunities for hiking, viewing wildlife, and hunting (deer and antelope), but these opportunities are not outstanding.

Current Condition Description: Current recreation opportunities consist primarily of big-game hunting, hiking, wildlife viewing and camping. While these opportunities may be present, their diversity and quality are not unlike that which can be found on public lands in the much of eastern Oregon in the Northern Great Basin region. The citizen proposal listed

additional opportunities of horseback riding, photography and wildflower study, but did not indicate what qualities of these activities made them outstanding. They did identify Sheep Mountain as a prominent feature contributing to outstanding recreational opportunities, however the BLM has determined Sheep Mountain is outside of this unit. After reviewing the information submitted, BLM finds that recreation opportunities present are not unique and do not present characteristics either individually or collectively that would result in these recreation activities being outstanding within the unit.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values?

Yes No N/A

1980 Unit Description: The 1980 Inventory Report described this unit as having no known supplemental values.

Current Condition Description: Unit provides important habitat for greater sage-grouse, a BLM Sensitive Species. The citizen proposal also listed habitat for pygmy rabbits and burrowing owls which they referred to as "Federal Species of Concern." The citizen proposal also reported the presence of pygmy rabbits and burrowing owls and BLM staff confirmed that pygmy rabbits are in the unit and that the unit also likely supports burrowing owls. Pygmy rabbits are BLM Sensitive Species, however, burrowing owls currently have no federal status.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: **Rim Rock Lake Unit (2-47)**

Summary Results of Analysis:

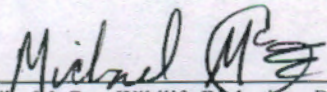
1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes No
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes No NA
4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes No NA

Conclusion (Check One):

- The area-or a portion of the area-has wilderness character.
- The area does not have wilderness character.

Prepared by: Laura Dowlan, Outdoor Recreation Planner (Wilderness Specialist)

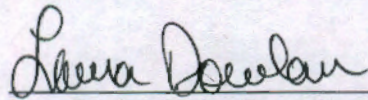
Team Members:


Mike McGee, Wildlife Biologist – Burns District

3/10/08
Date

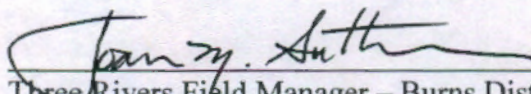

Bill Andersen, District Range Management Specialist – Burns District

3/10/08
Date


Laura Dowlan, Outdoor Recreation Planner (Wilderness Specialist) – Burns District

3/10/08
Date

Approved by:


Three Rivers Field Manager – Burns District

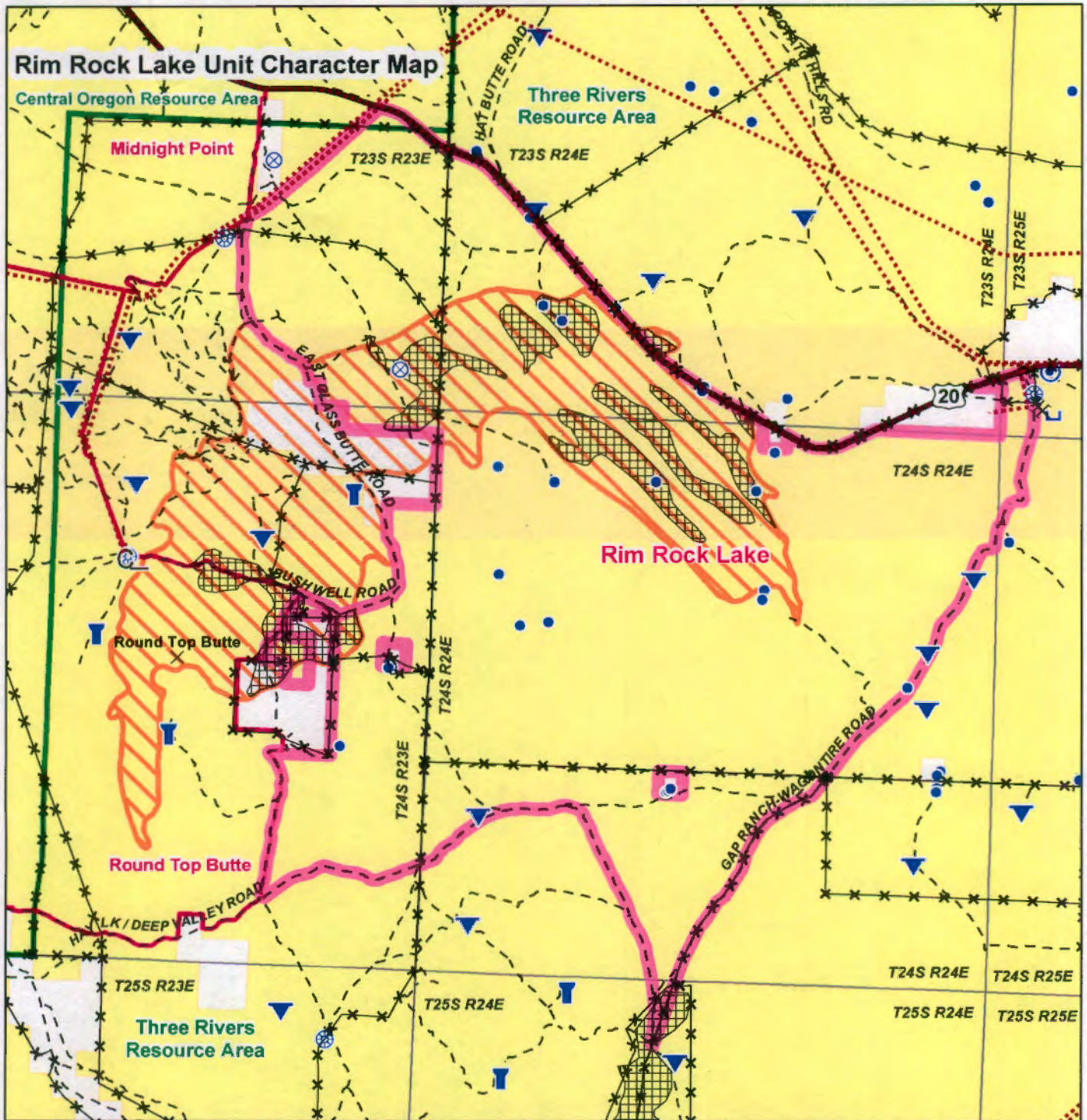
3/11/08
Date

This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-2.

Rim Rock Lake Unit Character Map

Central Oregon Resource Area

Three Rivers Resource Area



- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|---------------------------|
| Powerline | GUZZLER | Paved Road |
| FENCE | POND | Non-Paved Road |
| PIPELINE | RESERVOIR | Rim Rock Lake Unit |
| SEED | TROUGH | Adjacent Units |
| CATTLE GRD | WATERHOLE | 2007 Wildfires |
| CORRAL | WELL | Resource Area Boundary |
| DUGOUT | | Land Administration |
| | | Bureau of Land Management |
| | | Private |

Note: No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data was compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification. Ownership boundaries are accurate to within plus or minus 200 feet. Make local inquiry of road conditions in remote areas. Some roads are impassable following severe weather. Roads shown may not be all existing roads. Always seek private landowner permission before using or crossing their lands.

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 Bureau of Land Management
 Burns District, Oregon
 Three Rivers Resource Area
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 March 10, 2008 For Laura Dowlan

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

All legend elements may not appear on this map.